

[4 May, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

**Secret ballot for recognition of employee unions in Railways**

†3309. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the way has been cleared for 'secret ballot' method for recognizing employee unions in Railways; and

(b) if so, by when this election is likely to be held and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Based on the Judgement of Hon'ble High Court, Madras dated 17.10.2003 and Order of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 8.3.2004, it has been proposed to decide the exclusive membership of the Railway employees to unions through secret ballot to grant recognition to the Railway Unions. A Committee has been constituted to work out the modalities for conducting secret ballot. Elections will be held after modalities are framed.

**Proposal for survey work for gauge conversion**

†3310. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI:  
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals of railway tracks included with regard to performing survey work for gauge conversion in the railway budget for the year 2005-06 and 2007-08;

(b) time limit fixed for completing above mentioned survey work of gauge conversion; and

(c) the norms fixed for sanctioning the gauge conversion work after completion of survey work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) In the Budget 2005-06, 8 nos. of surveys for gauge conversion were included out of which 3 have been completed. In the

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi